AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

- 1. (Currently Amended) A method [[of configuring an appliance]] comprising:

 generating an electronic data file including configuration information; and

 transmitting [[an]] the electronic data file including the configuration information
 to [[the]] an appliance, wherein the appliance already has instructions stored on a

 storage medium thereof to reconfigure the appliance based on the received
 electronic data file, the electronic data file [[causing]] to cause the appliance to be
 automatically [[configured]] reconfigured based on the configuration information.
- (Withdrawn- currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration information [[is]] comprises configuration information in a markup language.
- 3. (Withdrawn- currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the configuration information [[is]] comprises configuration information in XML.
- 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic data file is embedded in an email, and further comprising:

encrypting the electronic data file prior to sending it to the appliance.

(Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising:decrypting the email after being received by the appliance.

- 6. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising:
 authenticating the email after being received by the appliance.
- (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising:
 checking that the email has a proper authorization before configuring the appliance.
- 8. (Withdrawn- currently amended) The method of claim [[I]] 1 further comprising: allowing access through a firewall to a particular IP address in response to receiving the electronic data file.
- (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 further comprising:
 allowing the particular IP address to modify the appliance through an interactive session.
- 10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 further comprising:authenticating the electronic data file by the appliance.
- 11. (Currently Amended) A method [[of configuring an appliance]] comprising:

 receiving an email [[containing]] including configuration information at an

 appliance that already has instructions stored on a storage medium thereof to

 reconfigure the appliance based on the configuration information; and

 reconfiguring [[configuring]] the appliance based on the configuration
 information.

- 12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:decrypting the email.
- 13 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11 further comprising: authenticating the configuration information.
- 14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 further comprising:
 allowing access through a firewall to a particular IP address responsive to receiving the email.
- 15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 further comprising:

 allowing access by the particular IF address to the appliance via an interactive menu.
- 16 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the interactive menu is part of a browser.
- 17. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:
 sending a confirmation email indicating that the appliance was reconfigured successfully.
- 18. (Currently Amended) A method [[of configuring multiple appliances]] comprising:
 - entering configuration information using an application running on a machine; sending an email [[containing]] including the configuration information to each of a group of appliances at substantially the same time [[for multiple appliances; and

the multiple appliances configuring themselves based on the configuration information].

- 19. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising:encrypting the configuration information in the email.
- 20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 further comprising:
 the multiple appliances authenticating the email [[before configuring themselves based on the configuration information]]; and
 reconfiguring the multiple appliances based on the configuration information after said authenticating.
- 21. (Withdrawn- currently amended) The method of claim 18 further comprising:

 the multiple appliances authenticating the email [[before configuring themselves based on the configuration information]]; and

 reconfiguring the multiple appliances based on the configuration information after said authenticating.
- 22. (Withdrawn) A method of communicating with a network comprising:

 receiving an email containing a user identifier; and

 allowing access through a firewall of the network to an IP address corresponding to the user identifier in response to receiving the email.
- 23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22 further comprising: authenticating the email.

- 24. (Original) The method of claim 22 further comprising:decrypting the email.
- 25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein access through the firewall is allowed for a predetermined time interval.
- 26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22 further comprising:
 sending a confirmation email indicating that access was allowed through the firewall.
- 27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the user identifier is the IF address.
- 28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein access through the firewall is allowed for a predetermined time interval.
- 29 (Currently Amended) An article comprising:

a storage medium which stores instructions, the instructions when executed, causing systems to:

receive an electronic data file including configuration information; and
reconfigure an appliance based on the configuration information included
in the electronic data file

[[receive an electronic data file containing configuration information; and configure an appliance based on the configuration information]].

- 30. (Original) The article of claim 29, wherein the storage medium further comprises instructions, the instructions, when executed, cause systems to:

 decrypt the electronic data file.
- 31. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 29, wherein the storage medium further comprises instructions, the instructions, when executed, cause systems to: authenticate the configuration information.